



# CALPEEK

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## CA ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER FONG APPOINTMENT.

If you were wondering whatever happened to Matt Fong(R), Gov. Pete Wilson's choice to replace Paul Carpenter(D) on the State Bd. of Equalization, the CA Assembly is tentatively set to debate and vote on Fong's appointment Apr. 8. But according to CALPEEK sources, the State Senate may let the Fong appointment slide through without a vote, which is the same as a YES vote...

...For those who have forgotten, Carpenter was convicted in the FBI's Capitol corruption case and sentenced to prison. Convicted felons can't hold office, but Carpenter is fighting this in the courts. Gov. Wilson tapped Fong to replace Carpenter in the 4th District BOE seat around Jan. 17. The legislature has 90 days to confirm Fong. If either or both houses don't vote, that's the same as a vote FOR confirmation. Sources tell CALPEEK that Fong has been up in Sacto on a regular basis, lobbying lawmakers for this appointment. What are Fong's chances? Pretty good unless he gets caught in a battle between Demos and Gov. Wilson over the budget — or something like that. Stay tuned...

## GOP U.S. SENATE RACE: SEYMOUR UNDER SIEGE.

Demo political consultant Joe Cerrell, writing in the Mar. 11 issue of Civic Center News Source, says this about the upcoming GOP primary battle between new U.S. Sen. John Seymour and hardline conservative U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer:

"Congressman Dannemeyer will accuse Sen. Seymour...of being soft on crime, because Seymour refuses to support the notion of rounding up every gay Californian and shipping him or her to Baghdad. Seymour will respond that Dannemeyer's notion of law and order was rejected by Genghis Khan as being too harsh, and Dannemeyer will take that as

a compliment." While this is supposed to be a tongue-in-cheek Cerrell prediction, it's not really far off the mark...

...The fact is conservative support for Dannemeyer is now beginning to take shape not only in Calif., but also in Washington D.C. And leading the conservative elephant stampede against Seymour will be former State Sen. H.L. "Bill" Richardson, chairman of Gun Owners of Calif. In a letter sent to U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm(R-TX), chair of the 1992 GOP Senatorial Campaign Committee, Richardson says he's been named Statewide chairman of the Dannemeyer campaign. The letter to Gramm asks the GOP Senatorial Campaign Committee not to interfere in the June 1992 primary. Fat chance...

...At the national level, Larry Pratt of Gun Owners of America, will be organizing a national effort to dump Seymour and elect Dannemeyer. Next to the NRA, Gun Owners is the second largest gun group in the U.S. And if combined with other single-issue conservative groups, such as PRO-LIFE conservatives, these organizations present a very real and threatening presence to the Seymour/Gov. Pete Wilson alliance...

...What's the strategy? According to a memo from Gun Owners of CA executive director John Stoos to Pratt, the objective is to turn the Calif. GOP primary fight between Seymour and Dannemeyer into a national cause celebre on issues where it is felt Seymour may be vulnerable with conservative voters...

...The Stoos memo notes that Seymour voted FOR on the Roos/Roberti Assault Weapons Ban; that he flipped his position on the question of ABORTION; that Seymour supports pro-homosexual legislation now making its

{Continued Next Page}

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way in the CA Legislature; that Seymour has waffled on tax issues; and that the new U.S. senator must also carry "baggage for the liberal appointments and actions of Gov. Wilson."...

...How do the conservatives view the race for the short term seat? If it's a contest between Demo Dianne Feinstein and Seymour, the Stoos memo says, "Feinstein will likely 'clean his clock' in the general election." The memo notes Seymour's loss to State Sen. Marian Bergeson in the June 1990 GOP primary. "He flip-flopped by announcing his switch to 'pro-choice' and proceeded to lose to a candidate that was considered a 'lightweight' (he even lost his own State Senate district by some 20,000 votes)."...

...As for Dannemeyer vs. DiFi, the Stoos memo says that a Dannemeyer victory would depend on winning over Reagan Demos; coat-tails from a very strong campaign in Calif. by President George Bush and a substantial GOTV effort by the CA Republican Party and conservative groups...

...The entire memo makes for great reading. So does another Cerrell tongue-in-cheek prediction from that same article CALPEEK quoted earlier:

..."Genghis Khan will emerge as a campaign side-bar issue because of the GOP primary squabble. Editorial cartoonists will have a field day. So will Jay Leno. At least one or two candidates, from either party, will -- in public -- be caught short and not know who Genghis Khan was because their staff never gave them a memo about him." Stay tuned...

#### GROWTH CONFERENCE SET FOR APR. 13 IN L.A.

An all-day conference focusing on growth, planning and the environment will be held April 13 at Occidental College in L.A. The conference is called, "The Calif. Dilemma: Seeking Solutions." Speakers include Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, attorney Dan Garcia (former L.A. Planning Commissioner), Bob Hattoy of the Sierra Club and Laura Lake of Not Yet New York. So. Calif. Gas Co. and Occidental College are two of the host sponsors. For info (213)259-2566...

#### L.A. CITY ELECTION: ANOTHER WEEK TO GO.

Editor's note: The L.A. municipal primary election will take place Apr. 9. In this issue of CALPEEK we'll take a final look at the 4 hottest council contests and make a few predictions based on talks with various CALPEEK sources. The even numbered council seats are up and incumbents John Ferraro, Richard Alatorre, Joel Wachs and Nate Holden are considered solid bets for reelection, even though some of these incumbents have challengers...

#### INCUMBENTS UNDER SIEGE

- 6th District - Councilwoman Ruth Galanter is seeking a 2nd term and although the opposition has at times been noisy, in the stretch drive it appears that Mary Lee Gray and Tavis Smiley, the two best known challengers, don't have the funds to bounce Galanter. At best, insiders think Gray may get 20-23% and Smiley 12-15%, if that much. That's not enough to force a runoff and the other four rivals are far behind. There has been some talk about an independent campaign for Gray funded by the So. Calif. Caucus, a developer PAC, but that seems somewhat unlikely. Bottomline: despite the cries that development is running wild in her district, Galanter should win another term without a runoff, unless something dramatic happens between now and Apr. 9...

- 12th District - This is the moderate to conservative Valley district of incumbent Hal Bernson, who is under siege from 5 challengers. Most everyone agrees the key issue in this race is the huge and very controversial Porter Ranch development. Bernson's well-funded campaign must agree, because he has sent out the same Porter Ranch mailer TWICE to district voters -- to make sure they got his message...

...Insiders are somewhat split on whether the 5 challenger will force a runoff June 4. If that should happen, Bernson's likely opponent will be liberal Demo school board member Julianne Korenstein. Most CALPEEK sources think she's now in 2nd place, with businessman/community activist Walter Prince in 3rd. Sources feel Prince will have to go after Korenstein if he is to be in a position to come in 2nd. It's no secret that the L.A. School District isn't in good shape and some think Korenstein must share part of the blame...

...The L.A.P.D./King beating also may become an issue in the closing days of the primary. Bernson is a strong supporter of Chief Daryl Gates, while Korenstein has called for Gates to step down. Prince, so far, has not taken a position on Gates' future. Bottomline: Bernson has money, a good VBM program and a wealth of conservatives in the district. Yet Porter Ranch may offset all these assets. This primary will be close, with a runoff very possible...

#### OPEN SEATS

- 8th District - There is only one issue in this district which now belongs to retiring Councilman Bob Farrell - the L.A.P.D. beating of Rodney King and the REMOVAL of Daryl Gates as chief of police. There are 3 tiers of candidates, but for all practical purposes, many CALPEEK sources think the contest has boiled down to SCLC regional head Mark Ridley-Thomas and political consultant Merman Maddox, who used to work for Mayor Tom Bradley (who is neutral in this race). In the 2nd tier there is attorney Billy Mills and consultant Rod Wright. It would be a longshot if either were to make a runoff...

...Ridley-Thomas and Maddox have been battling each other over the King beating issue ever since the story broke, with Maddox probably getting the edge due to his RECALL attempt on Gates using a little known section of the city charter. Both Maddox and Ridley-Thomas will go over the \$100,000 mark in campaign spending. Both rivals are excellent articulating issues, but of the two, Maddox is the more personable. Bottomline: a June 4 runoff between these two...

- 9th District - Like the neighboring 8th council district, the King/Gates controversy is alive & well in this SPECIAL ELECTION to replace the late Gilbert Lindsay. There is a huge field of candidates, but only 2 tiers of serious contenders. In the top tier there is L.A. School Board member Rita Walters, who is strongly backed by Mayor Bradley; and Bob Gay, the former top aide to Lindsay. Gay's candidacy is being backed by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters(D-L.A.), so this contest is also a struggle for political power in L.A.'s Black community...

...The 2nd tier rivals are Brad Pye Jr., who works for L.A. Co. Sup. Kenneth Hahn;

and Woody Fleming, a top political operative for the SEIU labor union. Pye has name ID and volunteers, but is a longshot at this point. Fleming is banking on his AFL-CIO C.O.P.E. endorsement and the fact that there are large numbers of city employees living in the district. He has a slightly better chance than Pye at a runoff...

...Most insiders see the contest as a Gay vs. Walters affair, with the King/Gates incident as the central issue. And here Gay may have stumbled. Several CALPEEK sources say Gay has flip-flopped on Gates-- at first ducking the issue, then saying he was not in favor of Gates stepping down and finally calling for Gates' resignation. Gay's campaign has a different spin and insist Gay wants Gates to resign. We'll see. Bottomline: Look for a Walters vs. Gay June 4 runoff. Stay tuned...

#### WATER WARS: NO EASY SOLUTIONS FOR DROUGHT.

Despite the fact that it was raining and snowing all over Calif. last week, water experts quickly noted it would take more than one month of heavy rain and snow to break the State's 5-year drought. Nevertheless, on or about April 1, State Water Resources Director David Kennedy may have available a reassessment of Calif.'s current water situation. Word is that before this group of March storms hit, the snowpack in the Sierras was at 20% of normal. With the late March storms, the snowpack may now be 65-75% of normal - or higher...

...In the meantime, Californians for Water, a new Statewide group HQ'd in Sacto, is in the process of expanding its board and evaluating results from a series of focus group studies on water issues conducted by research consultant Gary Lawrence of Orange Co. Although the results aren't finalized yet, sources familiar with the focus group studies say it confirms what many insiders already suspected: Californians understand how complex the water issue is and know that there are no simple, easy or inexpensive solutions...

...FYI: For info on the Contra Costa Water District's Delta '91 conference on water, contact Sue Gamba at (415)674-8109...

WILL SAN DIEGO COUNCILWOMAN BE RECALLED??

As far as CALPEEK can tell, there has never been a recall of a San Diego councilmember. But all that could change April 9. That's when Councilwoman Linda Bernhardt faces a recall from voters in her OLD district. CALPEEK will explain later...

...Question: Will the recall be successful? Depends on who you talk to. About half the insiders feel confident Bernhardt is history, while the other half have a gut feeling she'll squeak by. One source who has seen some polling data says Bernhardt has NEGATIVE name I.D. of about 40-45%. The same data indicates 60-65% of those questioned are inclined to vote YES on the recall. Not good numbers if you're a Bernhardt fan...

...In addition to the recall committee, Bernhardt must also contend with 7 rivals who have been pounding away. The recall candidates range from hardline conservatives to liberal environmentalists. Of the 7, insiders say the ones to watch are John Brand, Tom Behr and Les Braund. Together with Bernhardt, these are the ones who are walking precincts. In addition, former councilman Floyd Morrow (San Diego's perennial candidate), Behr and some environmental groups are doing moderate VBM (vote by mail) programs. Sources say some 5,000 to 6,000 applications have been mailed, with 1,300 ballots returned as of late March...

...Question: How did Linda Bernhardt get into so much trouble in such a short time on the council? Bernhardt had internal staffing problems (which became public); she redecorated her office (\$50,000) and wouldn't let the press see it; and she was part of the San Diego Gang of 5 on a controversial redistricting plan...

...On the plus side for Bernhardt, the San Diego environmental/slow growth movement is still on her side, although there have been some defections. She is a tireless campaigner and her message is simple: the recall is UNFAIR. As for voting in her old district, that's because the signatures on the recall petitions were gathered from her old district while the new remap plan was being debated and approved. Her new district is nearly the same except for a few key hot spots. Stay tuned...

PAT BROWN INST. DINNER SETS U.S. SEN. NUNN.

U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, will be the featured speaker at a special birthday dinner for ex-CA Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, Apr. 15 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner. For more info and RSVPs, (213)343-3770 or (916)444-8235...

SMART WEAPONS TOPIC FOR EX-GEN. ABRAHAMSON.

Retired Air Force Gen. James Abrahamson, who was once the director for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), will discuss "Smart Weapons, SDI and Security," Apr. 10, 11:45 a.m., Nikko Hotel, S.F. The speech is co-sponsored by the Air Force Assn. and the Commonwealth Club. For info, (415)597-6705...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook:

- New CA HQ for The Research Group: 544 Pacific St., 2nd Floor, S.F. 94133. (415)982-1120. That's where you'll find Ace Smith, Shawn Garvey and Jackie Koenig. They do opposition research...
- S.F.-based PA/campaign firm of Solem & Assoc. hired by new business group (BoFA, Levi Strauss, PG&E, AT&T, Transamerica plus more) to advise the group on politics and community relations...
- Tom Carroll and Charles Wright, both Sacto-based political consultants, have formed Carroll and Wright Campaigns, 1008 10th St., # 320, Sacto 95814 (916)973-2002. Both worked on Assemblyman Ted Lempert's reelection last year...
- Nelson/Ralston/Robb chair Bob Nelson has been appointed to the Bd. of Directors of the American Assn. of Political Consultants (AAPC)...
- L.A. Weekly Exec. Editor Harold Meyerson gets his own weekly radio show on KCRW FM each Wednesday. The interview program will focus on local politics...
- Rumor only --- with Jack Parnell, the U.S. Ag Dept.'s #2 guy leaving in May, the rumor is that GOP Assemblyman Bill Jones may be on Pres. Bush's short list to fill the post...